

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00949 302051Z

64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /074 W

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R 301740Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9081

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0949

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TO

SUBJECT: TOGOLESE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: A. LOME 926

B. LOME 948 (NOTAL)

1. TOGO'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR WERE INTER-
WOVEN WITH VISITS OF MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH (REF A)
AND NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DJEN DJIN KI (REF B).
GIVEN THIS COMBINATION, THIRD-WORLD THEMES OF ECONOMIC INDEPEN-
DENCE AND REVOLUTION DOMINATED PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS, EXCEPT FOR
RELIGIOUS SERVICES HELD AT DAWN APRIL 21 PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF
FOREIGN VISITORS. IT IS NOTEWORTHY, THEREFORE, THAT EYADEMA'S
ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON EVE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY WAS
MODERATE, DIGNIFIED AND RESPONSIBLE STATEMENT APPEALING TO
TOGOLESE PEOPLE FOR THIRD-WORLD RHETORIC. EYADEMA
NOTED THAT FUNDS FOR TOGO'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SPENT
BY TOGOLESE AS WELL AS "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES," ARE NOT
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LACKING DUE TO GROWING CONFIDENCE IN TOGO'S SERIOUSNESS OF PUR-

POSE. HE MADE MILD REFERENCE TO SAKAKAWA, STATING THAT THANKS TO "AN UNFORTUNATE EVENT WHICH WE SHALL LONG REMEMBER WE HAVE SEALED NATIONAL UNITY FOREVER AND WE ARE FINISHED WITH PRE-OCCUPATIONS OF PURE POLITICS BECAUSE OUR NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS HENCEFORTH IS FORMED."

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION WERE FOUR-HOUR PRESENTATION OF POLITICAL "ANIMATION" AND PRESIDENT'S DECORATION OF FIFTY ODD TOGOLESE AND FRENCH CITIZENS REPLACING TRADITIONAL PARADE. THERE SEEMED TO BE PALL OVER PRESIDENTIAL BOX WHEREIN EYADEMA WAS GLUM THROUGHOUT AND OULD DADDAH APPEARED UNMOVED. DJEN DJIN KI ALONE SEEMED INTRIGUED BY SEVERAL HOURS OF ENERGETIC "ANIMATION" AND FLAG/WAVING DISPLAYS, NORTH KOREAN STYLE.

3. CONTRARY TO RUMORS CIRCULATING LOME PRIOR TO PRINCIPAL CELEBRATION APRIL 27, NEW PRESIDENTIAL GUARD BEING TRAINED BY NORTH KOREAN COMMANDO EXPERTS IN EYADEMA'S HOME AREA OF LAMA KARA WERE NOT IN EVIDENCE. GUARD AND TRAINERS WERE BROUGHT TO LOME, HOWEVER.

4. TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO EYADEMA WAS PRINTED IN TODAY'S "TOGO-PRESSE."
RAWLS

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